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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 24 | Min 21 | Humidity 80% Light Rain Sensex 81,973 | Nifty 25,127 | Gold 76,014 | Silver 90,693 | Dollar 84.07 | Euro 91.67 | GBP 109.71

POST-HOLIDAY BLUES

Citizens welcomed after long weekend by Monday filled with traffic snarls due to vehicle breakdowns, waterlogged roads

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READY FOR RAIN?

City likely to see heavy rainfall on Wednesday & Thursday, wet weather forecast till Sunday, temperatures likely to dip

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City's disabled try to navigate footpaths with inaccessible kerb ramps, unscientifically placed bollards, and other barriers. As civic agency thinks of redesigning spaces, experts suggest use of tech, more civic sense

KAUSHIK JN

GREAT BARRIER GRIEF

Policy-makers now seek to include all citizens while designing new infra

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For many of its disabled residents, the city's landscape remains a series of obstacles. Footpaths are riddled with barriers and inaccessible kerb ramps, unscientifically placed bollards, and a lack of essential tactile paving make navigation tough for the visually impaired and wheelchair users.

> **"If you're on the road, it's nearly impossible to safely access the footpath, and if you're already on the footpath, getting off can be equally difficult** — Wheelchair user

India's Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, is designed to ensure that people with disabilities can access infrastructure and services without facing unnecessary hurdles. The Act mandates that public spaces, including footpaths, must be accessible to all individuals, regardless of physical limitations. However, in practice, enforcement of these guidelines is either symbolic in nature or they are not as per as standard set in these guidelines.

Major barriers

"Footpaths in Bengaluru often lack accessible kerb ramps at intersections, creating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Take-over with flowers

Exotic weeds have covered nearly 60% of forests in state; NGO called in for removal

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Invasive plants such as Lantana Camara and Senna Spectabilis have been wreaking havoc in Karnataka's forest landscape.

According to the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), these flowering exotic weeds have covered nearly 60% of the forests, have led to a surge in human-wildlife conflict cases and all the attempts by the department to remove these weeds have been futile so far.

As a result, KFD has now turned to an NGO to free forest areas of invasive plant species and to restore degraded forest land.

"We have allotted nearly 100 acres of forest area in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve on a pilot basis to Forest First Samithi, an NGO that has cleared weeds from forest areas in Wayanad District, Kerala. The NGO will remove invasive weeds in the area and maintain it for the next two to three years. Based on the outcome of the project, such measures will be taken up in other forest areas in the state," said SK Malkhede, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

According to Meera Chandran, Secretary, Forest First Samithi, the process in Nagarhole will involve the complete uprooting of Senna spectabilis using handheld tools. This will be during a six-month window (from June to November)

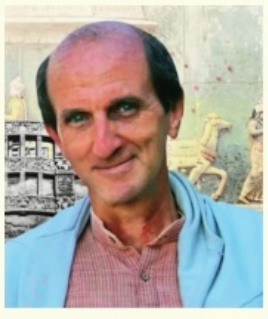
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Bharatanatyam debut

Alaap School of Music and Arts presents the Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of Bhuvana Holla. This event marks a significant milestone in Bhuvana's artistic journey, displaying her dedication and mastery of the classical dance form of Bharatanatyam. Bhuvana, daughter of Malathi Holla and Ashok Kumar Holla, has been training under the guidance of the renowned Preethi Prasad. With years of rigorous practice and an unwavering passion for dance, Bhuvana is set to present a vibrant and captivating performance that promises to enthral audiences.
Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road, Bangalore.
When: October 19, 2024, 6 pm

02 Insights into historical controversies



Controversies are intrinsic to the discipline of history, proof enough that the past lives on in us. India has had a generous share of them, minor and major ones. Author, historian, and educationist Michel Danino will speak on "Historical Controversies: How (Not) to Handle Them" and detail the need for scholarly rigour, a dispassionate scrutiny of diverse perspectives, and better strategies to address such issues in the Azim Premji University public lecture series.
Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: October 16, 6:30 to 8 pm

03 Diverse poems

Join Apoorva Lakshmi Ragi, a multi-passionate poet, on Tuesdays with Bard @ Urban Solace. She is a practicing architect, and as a part-time illustrator, artisanal stationery collective, and photographer, she believes in interdisciplinary innovations. Her work of poetry resounds this multi-passionate energy with poems written in themes of reflective poetry, self-awareness and urban feminism. She dabbles in poetry on film and visual poetry as well.

Where: Urban Solace
When: October 15, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

Festive remnants

Decor, pandal & flower waste float in the idol immersion pond at Ulsoor Lake on Monday

You can see more images on our Instagram page by scanning this QR code

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Not just road rage: High Court denies bail to murder accused

HC emphasises danger of releasing individuals who engage in quarrels on highways & cause fatal injuries using deadly weapons; says petitioner in case is not entitled for bail

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The Karnataka High Court has denied bail to a 39-year-old man accused of murder in a road rage incident in Udupi. The court rejected the argument that the case was merely one of road rage and not murder, despite the victim's death being attributed to a cardiac arrest rather than the stab wound inflicted by the accused. The court stated, "The contention of the learned Senior Advocate that it was only a road rage and there was no intention on the part of the petitioner to cause the death of the deceased cannot be accepted at this stage."

The incident occurred on October 1, 2023, when Shafiullah allegedly overtook the victim's (Raghavendra Sheregar) car, engaged in a verbal dispute, and stabbed him in the thigh with a knife. Following a witness statement, Shafiullah was arrested by the Kundapura police. The victim succumbed to his injuries in the hospital the following day, prompting the registration of a murder case. Shafiullah's bail plea was rejected by a Udupi court on February 9, 2024. He subsequently approached the HC for bail. In its order dated September 23, which was made public on October 7, HC judge Justice MG Uma denied the bail application.

File photo of a road rage incident

"Adovocate's contention that it was only road rage & there was no intention on part of petitioner to cause death of deceased cannot be accepted at this stage
–Justice MG Uma, High Court judge

The order further emphasised the danger of releasing individuals who engage in quarrels on highways and cause fatal injuries using deadly weapons. The court also rejected the argument that the case would, at most, fall under Section 304(2) of the Indian Penal Code (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) instead of Section 302 (murder). The order concluded, "Under such circumstances, I am of the opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to a grant of bail."

HC sends notice to govt about plea to declare 2 temples as ancient monuments

The High Court Division Bench consisting of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind issued a notice to the state government and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition.

The petition, filed by Nikhil Vitthal Patil, a law student from Kolhapur district in Maharashtra, was seeking to declare the Allama Prabhu Swamy and Vitthal temples as ancient monuments and relocate them to a nearby location. These temples remain submerged in the backwaters of Hidkal dam in Belagavi district for nearly six months every year.

According to ASI data, the Allama Prabhu Swamy temple was constructed between the 17th and 18th centuries, while the Vitthal temple was built in 1928. However, the ASI authorities did not take steps to maintain the temples as they are not listed as ancient monuments under the "Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958."

The petitioner also mentioned that the Belagavi district administration had not taken action to protect the temples, resulting in alleged damage to the structures and idols, which are only accessible to the public during the summer season. The petitioner suggested that both temples could be relocated, similar to the Venugopala Swamy temple, which was submerged in the backwaters of the KRS dam in Mysuru district, which was successfully relocated in 2011 with financial assistance from an industrial house.

Back to reality after holidays

TRAFFIC CHAOS ON MONDAY

Waterlogged roads, vehicle breakdowns brought traffic flow to a crawl as people returned to office after 3-day break

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After the three-day Dasara vacation, Bengaluru's already congested roads saw severe traffic snarls, particularly near the Peenya flyover, an area known for being an industrial hub. The influx of vehicles returning to the city after the holiday overwhelmed the city's infrastructure, leading to long delays.

Commuters travelling along key routes such as Tumkur Road and the Outer Ring Road, Mysuru Road, Electronic City, faced gridlocks that stretched for several kilometres. The worst-hit areas included the stretch from Goraguntepalya to Jalahalli and Dasarahalli. The slow traffic moment, especially during peak morning hours, created frustration among office-goers and truck drivers, with many reporting delays lasting several hours.

Peenya, a crucial transit point, struggled to manage the increased vehicular movement, further aggravating the situation for daily commuters. The situation worsened due to a lorry breakdown on the Peenya flyover towards Goraguntepalya, which compounded the traffic congestion. The breakdown caused further delays, as vehicles had to navigate around the stranded lorry, adding to the already chaotic traffic scene.

The Assistant Police Commissioner Of North Division (Traffic) stated that many people were returning to Bengaluru after the festive break, leading to a surge in commuters. With additional buses on the road, traffic slowed down. While the breakdown of a lorry contributed to the delays, it was just one of several factors causing the slow movement. However, the lorry was cleared within a few minutes.

Other roads packed too

Monday saw Bengaluru's roads clogged with slow-moving traffic as the city resumed its regular workweek after the festival break. A combination of vehicle breakdowns and waterlogging across several areas resulted in heavy delays for commuters. The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) X handle was continuously updated on sluggish traffic conditions throughout the day. Breakdown incidents involving BMTC buses and lorries were major contributors to the congestion.

One of the earliest incidents that triggered congestion was a BMTC bus breaking down on the busy stretch from Chikkalasandra Bank Colony towards Uttarahalli

One of the earliest incidents that triggered congestion was a BMTC bus breaking down on the busy stretch from Chikkalasandra Bank Colony towards Uttarahalli. The breakdown led to a major bottleneck, forcing vehicles to inch forward slowly as the bus blocked a crucial lane.

Waterlogging compounded traffic woes, particularly on Magadi Road near Wildcraft towards Sumanahalli, where flooding slowed vehicles to a crawl. Similarly, the stretch from JD Mara Junction towards Sai Rama Junction was also affected by waterlogging, causing further slowdowns for motorists.

In Bommanahalli, traffic was hampered by a bus that went off-road, resulting in slow-moving traffic towards Kodichikanahalli. officials worked to clear the road, but the incident caused long delays.

Breaking down

The day saw multiple lorry breakdowns adding to the city's traffic snarls. A lorry broke down near Aravinda Junction, leading to slow-moving traffic on the road towards RV Dental College. Another lorry breakdown occurred at the Navrang Bridge underpass, leading to significant congestion towards MC Circle.

The breakdown of another BMTC bus added to the chaos near Benakanahalli, where traffic was slowed down on the road towards GD Mara. Meanwhile, a vehicle breakdown at Mangammanapalya Bus Stop Service Road towards the city centre also contributed to traffic crawling in the area.

Professor attempts suicide in staff room

A 44-year-old English professor at SSMRV College in Jayanagar is said to have tried to take her own life on Monday, reportedly due to trouble she was facing in the college. The incident took place within Tilak Nagar police station limits.

The professor, Shabana Ateeq, who also served as the Head of the English Department, reportedly consumed an overdose of painkillers in the staff room shortly after leaving the Principal's office. She collapsed and was quickly rushed to a nearby private hospital, where she is currently being treated and is reported to be out of danger.

Shabana, who has been with the college for nearly three years, claimed to have faced continuous harassment from her superiors.

Preliminary investigations revealed that she was recently subjected to an internal inquiry. According to the police, on Monday, the Principal informed Shabana that the inquiry had found her guilty of unspecified allegations. As a result, she was asked to step down from her role as Head of Department and reassigned to a different seating position as a disciplinary measure.

Dejected by this decision, Shabana allegedly attempted suicide, police said. Authorities are awaiting her complete recovery to take a formal statement and proceed with further investigation.

(For those struggling with suicidal thoughts, assistance is available through Arogya Sahayavani at 104.)

Bus driver killed in bar fight

A 25-year-old man was stabbed to death with a glass bottle following an altercation at a wine shop in New Guddadahalli, Mysore Road, on Sunday night. The incident occurred at Kala Wines, near Veera Anjaneya Temple, between 10:30 and 11:20 pm. The victim, identified as Yogendra Singh, was a mini-bus driver employed at a software company in Kolar district.

According to the complaint filed by Yogendra's father, Vishwanath Singh, Yogendra had come home for the Dussehra holiday and was last seen by his family around 9:30 pm on October 13. Shortly after, a neighbour, Sivanna, informed Yogendra's mother, Pushpabai, that her son was involved in a commotion near the bar. Pushpabai rushed to Kala Wines, where she discovered her son lying in a pool of blood. Vishwanath Singh also arrived at the scene later and confirmed his son's death. Witnesses at the wine shop, including the cashier Venkatesh and supplier Yogesh, informed the police that an individual named Umesh had quarreled with Yogendra before attacking him with a glass bottle, leading to his death.

BMB

Drunk driving: No excuse, off with their licences

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have started recommending the suspension of driving licences even for first-time offenders in the case of serious violations, especially drunk driving.

With the city's roads increasingly becoming open fields for reckless driving, the police officials are tightening the noose on violators, aiming to send a clear message: one mistake could cost you your licence.

The special drive, which ran from October 7 to October 13, saw officers inspecting a staggering 25,859 vehicles across the city. Of these, 369 cases of drunk driving were registered, with drivers having their licences confiscated on the spot.

On October 13, during which 8,840 vehicles were checked, leading to 112 cases of drunk driving being recorded in a single day. The figures paint a grim picture of the frequency of violations, despite the continuous efforts of law enforcement.

During this operation within the east traffic police station limits, officers inspected 4,789 vehicles between October 10 and October 13.

During this period, 61 cases of drunk driving were registered. Offenders found themselves without a driving licence, as the confiscated licences were forwarded to the regional transport office for suspension.

Speaking about the strict measures, Deputy commissioner of police Kuldeep Kumar R Jain (East Traffic) said, Those who violate the rules will have their driving licence confiscated and sent to the regional transport office for suspension.

Depending on the violation, the RTO can suspend the driving licence for 3 or 6 months. During this period, they are not allowed to drive, and if found driving or repeating the same mistake, the violators will be penalised heavily, even for the first time offenders too.

BMB

Tree census data soon to be made public

Tree census has been completed in three wards and is expected to be finished by December

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Data from the ongoing tree census by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon be made public for citizens to provide inputs and suggestions.

According to the Forest Department of BBMP, tree enumeration data from three wards in the city will be made available for the citizens to analyse and provide their counsel to improve the census process.

"The census has been completed in three wards and the data will soon be made public. All data collected from these wards will be published on a website in the coming week. The idea is to involve citizens in the process and seek their feedback," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forest, BBMP.

Citizens may provide inputs, which would be analysed by experts. The relevant inputs and suggestions will be incorporated for better outcomes.

"The tree census result will let people know about the city's current green cover. There are citizen groups all across the city and they keep track of their areas' green cover. Any suggestions or comments by these groups on the census data will help us improve the process and make the exercise more meaningful," added Swamy.

The census data will be uploaded within a week on a website created by the Karnataka Remote Sensing Institute.

The much-awaited census was taken up by BBMP in February this year

"All data collected from these wards will be published on a website in the coming week. The idea is to involve citizens in the process and seek their feedback –BLG Swamy, BBMP

Results to arrive by December now

However, BBMP officials also informed BM that the census has been delayed further and is now expected to be over only by the end of this year.

The much-awaited census was taken up by BBMP in February this year with the completion deadline of August 2024. Later, the deadline was changed to November.

"We have enumerated nearly three lakh trees across the city. However, the process is slightly delayed due to rainy days and holiday season. We started the census in 80 wards and it has been completed in three wards so far. It is expected to be over by December this year," said a BBMP official.

The civic agency floated a tender for the census in October last year and the work order was issued to a company named Rasta Infra. This was after the Palike landed in a single-bid situation after it floated eight tenders, one for each zone, but received only two bids in response from the same bidder.

Under the census, every tree in the Bengaluru is enumerated after receiving a patch of yellow background with its unique number painted on it in black. Further, five parameters —girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photographs — of each tree are being documented.

Green signal for Namma Metro phase 3A project

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In a significant development, the Government of India's Urban Development Department has granted approval for Namma Metro Phase 3A project, which will connect Hebbal to the Tech Hub in Sarjapur, covering a distance of 37 kilometres. The next step involves the Union Cabinet approving the plan, following a review of the detailed project report (DPR) by the finance department to make funding decisions. The budget estimate for this project in 2022-23 was around Rs 16,500 crore, but following the detailed project report, the estimated cost has now risen to Rs 27,000 crore.

Last August, the Union Cabinet had given the green light for our Metro Phase 3 project. Our Metro officials state that this marks the first approval at the central government level for a project that will play a crucial role in alleviating traffic congestion.

In June of last year, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) submitted the DPR for this project to the state government, which then forwarded the details to the central government for approval.

According to the DPR, the project will feature a total of 28 stations, incorporating both underground and elevated sections. The elevated route will extend from Sarjapur to Koramangala 3rd Block, with plans for 15 stations in that section. An underground route will connect the 3rd Block to the Veterinary College, featuring 11 stations, while elevated stations will also be present at Ganga Nagar and Hebbal. Sources indicate that discussions have taken place between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the city development department due to the underground route planned in Hebbal.

The new route will include 28 stations, namely Sarjapur, Kada Agrahara Road, Somapura, Dommasandra, Muthanallur Cross, Ambedkar Nagar, Kodathi Gate, Carmelram, Doddakannalli, Kaikondarahalli, Bellandur Gate, Ibbluru, Agara, Jakasandra, Koramangala 3rd Block,

CM Siddaramaiah inspects city along with officials, inspects progress of Metro work between Hebbal and K R Puram went around different parts of city (File photo)

Koramangala 2nd Block, Dairy Circle, Nimhans, Shantinagar, Town Hall, KR Circle, Basaveshwara Circle, Bangalore Golf Course, Palace Guttahalli, Mehkri Circle, Veterinary College, Gangannagar, and Hebbal. A depot will also be constructed in Sarjapur.

Plans for sports and cultural complex

The BMRCL has proposed constructing a sports and cultural complex atop the underground Shivajinagar Metro station, modeled after metro stations abroad. The station is part of the 21-km Metro Pink Line between Nagawara and Kalena Agrahara, with most of the construction work nearing completion. BMRCL officials have identified around 2.5 acres of space above the Shivajinagar station, which will be utilised to develop facilities for sports and cultural activities.

Sources said that the proposed complex will include facilities for indoor sports as well as cricket, football, basketball, and swimming. Additionally, there are plans to build a large auditorium to host cultural events. In collaboration with BBMP, BMRCL intends to seek funding for the project. The proposal is currently in its preliminary stage, with the preparation of a DPR and cost estimates underway. The aim is to complete the construction within the next two to three years. The civil construction of the underground metro station is almost complete. The station will also provide direct access to the Shivajinagar bus station, enhancing connectivity.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage dump
Jayanagar

A temporary shed has been erected, and garbage is being dumped behind the bus shelter at Sangam Circle, 8th Block, Jayanagar.

Overflowing drain
Sarjapur Road

The mini lake and drainage (side kaluve) in Junnasandra, directly opposite the Wipro corporate office on Sarjapur Road, are overflowing, risking riders and pedestrians.

Holed footpath
Mantri Square Circle

The culvert is broken at Milk Corner, South End Road, near Mantri Square Circle, disrupting the footpath for pedestrian usage.

Imposters, closure threats: PG owners call for fair inspections

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The paying guest (PG) accommodation owners in the city are saying that they are being harassed by some people claiming to be Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) health department employees. Owners are alleging that the so-called employees are demanding money and are threatening to close the PGs for not paying.

"One person by name Avinash Kenchegowda sent a notice to one of the PG owners at Mahadevapura and demanded the PG owner to Google pay Rs 3,000 to avoid verification of the PG. The owner has recorded the conversation of the so-called BBMP employee," said a PG owner pleading anonymity. Upon contacting the BBMP Health Officer (Mahadevapura), it was then verified that there is no one by name Avinash Kenchegowda working with the health department.

It is mandatory for all PGs to follow the norms to ensure safety and hygiene. Moreover, following the recent PG murder at Koramangala, the BBMP rolled out guidelines for operating PGs in the city. The BBMP authorities have also conducted raids on PGs and are ordering closures of those PGs flouting the norms. However, it is noted that some BBMP employees and middlemen are making money in the name of inspection and verification of PGs.

KAUSHIK JN

BBMP officials closed down 20 unauthorised PGs in city last week

RB Manish, who owns a PG at Basavanagudi, recalled how a BBMP health department employee demanded money from him. "He inspected the PG and asked me when I painted the kitchen. Also, one of the rules is that PG accommodations for ladies should have a woman cook. It is not easy for us to get women willing to work as cooks," he said. Manish further said that blaming all the PGs for an unfortunate incident taken at a PG in Koramangala is not apt. "We have no objection to BBMP authorities acting tough against those unauthorised PGs, but it is not fair to harass PG owners who follow the norms and give importance to safety and hygiene. Some of the PG owners have incurred a huge loss due to lack of occupancy and unhealthy competition," he added.

Meanwhile, PG Owners' Welfare Association president Arun Kumar DT said that arrangements are being made to have an interaction with BBMP Chief Commissioner on Wednesday at Sri Basaveshwara Sugnana Mantapa, near Hosahalli Namma Metro Station. "We have requested the BBMP Chief Commissioner to direct BBMP Health Department officials to attend the programme. We have also informed all the PG owners to attend the programme. I expect this programme to clear the doubts on the implementation of norms at the PG accommodations," said Kumar.

He has also appealed to the BBMP authorities not to harass PG owners on the pretext of implementing new norms and verification of PGs. "Some of the PG owners have decided to close down due to the harassment and exploitation by the BBMP health department officials," he said.

Grab your rain gear... It's wet week ahead

City is likely to see heavy rainfall on Wednesday & Thursday; temperatures are expected to dip, hovering between 20-25°C, with rain forecast until Sunday: Report

The new week has begun with light drizzling and cloudy weather in Bengaluru

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Wrapping up the Navratri festivities, Bengaluru has begun the new week with light drizzles, signalling the start of what is expected to be a prolonged spell of rain. Meteorologists from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) have forecast a wet week ahead, as two major weather systems in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are likely to bring more rainfall to the city and surrounding areas.

The forecast suggested that Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Chikamagalur, and Kolar districts will experience scattered heavy rainfall over the next few days. Temperatures in Bengaluru are expected to dip, hovering between 25°C and 20°C during this period, with rain forecast until Sunday (October 20).

Weather across state

Moreover, isolated heavy rain and thundershowers are likely in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Coastal Karnataka, while light to moderate rain is expected in Uttara Kannada. South Interior Karnataka, including districts like Chamarajanagara, Kodagu, Mandya, and Mysuru, is likely to witness isolated heavy to very heavy rain.

A report from Skymet further adds that Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Mangaluru, and Karwar, are likely to see heavy rainfall on Wednesday and Thursday. Weather conditions are expected to improve after Friday as the system moves across the South Peninsula towards the Arabian Sea.

> **"Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Chikamagalur, and Kolar districts will experience scattered heavy rainfall over next few days**
>
> –Indian Meteorological Department

Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at IMD Bengaluru, explained that a trough from the center of a depression over the central Arabian Sea is extending towards the Comorin area, with a cyclonic circulation over Tamil Nadu at elevations between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level.

Additionally, a low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify and move west-northwest towards north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts by Wednesday. Another cyclonic circulation is situated over the west-central Bay of Bengal, off the coast of south Andhra Pradesh, and is extending up to 5.8 km above sea level.

Additionally, the Skymet report states that under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the Southeast Bay of Bengal, a low-pressure area has formed, which is expected to intensify into a depression or deep depression within the next 24 hours.This system will move west-northwest towards the east coast of Sri Lanka and could bring heavy rains to South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Coastal Tamil Nadu. Environmental factors and sea surface temperatures are favourable for the system's intensification, and it may develop into a tropical storm.

Conditional bail granted to Nagendra in tribal welfare board case

The Special Court for MLAs/MPs in Bengaluru on Monday granted conditional bail to former Minister B Nagendra in the Tribal Welfare Board case. The court has directed him to provide a Rs 2 lakh personal bond and surety from two persons.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has named Nagendra as the primary accused and mastermind in the alleged scam in the Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki ST Development Corporation and arrested him on July 12 in connection with the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Following allegations against him, Nagendra, who was Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister, tendered his resignation on June 6.

The BJP has alleged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's role in the scam since he had "agreed" to the misappropriation of Rs 89.6 crore from the government body. The BJP is claiming that it is a scam involving Rs 187 crore and as Siddaramaiah holds the finance portfolio, his involvement is evident.

The ED has filed a prosecution complaint (PC) or charge sheet before the Special Court for MPs/MLAs in Bengaluru in connection with the scam. The court has taken cognisance of the PC, the central agency had stated. "Nagendra allegedly orchestrated the scam with the help of 24 others, including key associates like Satyanarayana Varma, Etakari Satyanarayana, JG Padmanabha, Nageshwar Rao, Nekkenti Nagaraj, and Vijay Kumar Gowda," the ED said in a statement.

The agency initiated the investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by the Karnataka Police and the CBI, which uncovered that around Rs 89.62 crore was diverted from the Corporation's accounts into fake accounts across AP and Telangana and later laundered through shell entities. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the scam has given a clean chit to Nagendra in the case.

– IANS

Homecoming for Mysuru Jumbos

Abhimanyu and his team set off for their forest camps on Monday after Dasara festivities

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Mahout Vasanth with Abhimanyu, the lead elephant that successfully carried the Golden Howdah during Jumbo Savari

With the Mysuru Dasara ending on a grand note, it will be homecoming for the elephants as the troupe which was residing in the palace grounds for the past two months is now heading to the forests. 'Captain' Abhimanyu and his team set off for their camps on Monday.

Mahout Vasant expressed happiness at the success of the Jambusavari. He said, "Abhimanyu has successfully carried the royal howdah for the fifth consecutive time. It is a blessing to carry the howdah of Chamundeshwari." DCF Prabhu Gowda added, "I feel fortunate to have had the privilege of leading Abhimanyu. In fact, Abhimanyu has upheld the trust that the public has placed in him. The staff worked efficiently in a short time to prepare the howdah. Meanwhile, the memory of the Arjuna elephant will always remain cherished."

The grand Dasara festival saw the majestic procession of the royal elephant, Jambusavari, who took a well-deserved rest in the palace courtyard on Sunday. Forest department officials, mahouts, and attendants celebrated the success of the Dasara festivities with joy. The mahouts and their families enjoyed a sense of relief, as there was no pressure to prepare the elephants for training or special food. The elephants, having walked from the palace to Bannimantap during the procession, were given oil massages and baths early Sunday morning. They were then provided with food and special care. Abhimanyu, the leading elephant, rested in a shed he had previously made for himself in the palace grounds. Despite achieving a significant feat, he remained cool and composed. Other elephants like Varalakshmi, Bhima, Gopi, Dhananjaya, Mahendra, Prashant, Kanjan, Rohit, Hiranya, Lakshmi, Sugriva, Ekalavya, and the grand old Lakshmi also relaxed calmly.

Expert urges State to halt treatment for naturally injured wild animals

Meanwhile, wildlife scientist Sanjay Gubbi has urged in a formal letter addressed to Karnataka's Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, to discontinue medical treatment for wild animals injured due to natural causes within protected areas. Speaking to Mirror, Gubbi has raised concerns over the growing trend of treating such animals, comparing the practice to caring for domestic pets, which he argues could harm long-term wildlife conservation efforts and exacerbate human-wildlife conflict. He pointed out that while treatment for animals hurt by unnatural causes such as snares or vehicular accidents should continue, whereas treating naturally injured animals interferes with the natural ecological balance. Gubbi cited the tragic death of Forest Watcher Sri Venkatesh last year during the treatment of a wild elephant, highlighting the dangers to forest personnel and the general public during such operations.

> **"Abhimanyu has successfully carried the royal howdah for the fifth consecutive time** -DCF Prabhu Gowda

For species like tigers and elephants that have no natural predators, such injuries help maintain their numbers within the ecological carrying capacity, thereby reducing the risk of human-wildlife conflict. He also pointed out that wild animals have their own ways of dealing with injuries, and their deaths support other species like vultures, hyenas, and arthropods that rely on carcasses for sustenance. "Wildlife carcasses contribute to soil fertility by providing essential nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, which benefit plant life", he said. Gubbi praised the forest department's decision not to burn wildlife carcasses, a practice that has aided the recovery of critically endangered vulture species.

IN BRIEF

Dasara leftovers: 20% increase in trash

Due to the Dasara festival, Bengaluru has experienced a sharp rise in waste production, with an increase of more than 20% compared to the daily average. Over the last two days, intensified efforts have been made to clear the significant amounts of waste left behind on roadsides and in markets across the city.

The festival, particularly the Ayudha Puja, saw widespread sales of banana stems, ash gourds, leaves, and flowers, leading to large amounts of waste being discarded in these areas.

An official said, "Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited has been actively and effectively clearing this waste. On an average day, Bengaluru generates around 4,900 metric tons of waste. However, during the Dasara festivities, waste generation peaked, with 6,306 metric tons on October 12, 5,561 metric tons on October 13, and about 5,866 metric tons today." Organic waste has been sent to processing units, while mixed waste has been directed to landfills.

Officials said that key markets such as KR Market, Gandhi Bazaar, Devasandra Market, KR Puram Market, Malleshwaram Market, Madiwala Market, Russell Market, and Palike Bazaar have also seen heightened waste levels. Over the past two days, 414 metric tons of waste were cleared from these locations, with an additional 150 metric tons disposed of today.

"To tackle the increased waste load in markets and along roadsides, additional JCB machines, auto tippers, and compactors have been deployed under the supervision of solid waste division officers and marshals. Multiple trips were made to ensure timely waste disposal in all zones. Areas where waste has been dumped along roadsides are also being promptly addressed," an official said.

—BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Hoskote lake sanctum for bird lovers

Rare bird species like flamingo adds to beauty of the lake (File photo)

The Hoskote Lake in the city outskirts is now turning out to be a regular place for avian lovers as many are spotting around 218 bird species. The surrounding environment, adorned with various trees and plants, makes it an ideal spot for a day trip. Situated just 20 kilometres from Bengaluru on the Bengaluru-Kolar route, Hosakote, once known for its political significance is now a hotspot for bird watchers. Weekends and holidays see a steady influx of visitors drawn to the lake's serene beauty.

A haven for birds and flora

Fed by the Pinakini River, a tributary of the Arkavathi originating from Nandi Hills, Hosakote lake is a vast expanse of water teeming with diverse avian and floral life. The lake's proximity to Bengaluru and its rich biodiversity makes it a favourite among birdwatchers. Apart from the lake, Hosakote is also home to several historical temples like Avi Muktha Swamy Temple, Lakshmi Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, and Varadaraja Swamy Temple.

Bird migration

One of the most fascinating aspects of Hosakote Lake is the annual migration of birds from Siberia. The lake provides a suitable habitat for these birds during the winter months (October to January). The lake supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, including mammals, reptiles, butterflies, and trees. The presence of rare bird species like the flamingo adds to the lake's ecological significance. With its tranquil ambiance and rich biodiversity, Hosakote Lake offers a perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. Whether you're a birdwatcher or simply seeking a peaceful retreat, Hosakote Lake is worth a visit.

—Sridhar Vivan

Coach backs veteran to fire big runs

Gambhir hails star batter Kohli ahead of 3-match series with New Zealand that begins tomorrow in B'luru

Ahead of the three-match series against New Zealand, Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir backed star batter Virat Kohli to come good in the series and the highly anticipated tour to Australia, noting that he was as hungry as he was during his debut.

India will be hoping to continue their home dominance as they take on New Zealand for a three-match Test series from October 16, starting with the first Test in Bengaluru. Virat's runs will be playing a crucial role to India's success. Though Virat has been consistent in the longer format since scoring his 28th Test century, his first in three years against Australia back in March last year, his struggle to play long Test knocks consistently in the whole of the 2020s decade is well-known.

In 31 Tests this decade, he has scored 1,745 runs at an average of 33.55, with just two centuries and eight fifties in 54 innings. This record looks really subpar as per the batter's mighty standards, having dominated the format in the 2010-2019 era.

In three Tests this year, Virat has scored 157 runs in six innings and three Tests at an average of 31.40, with best score of 47. In the ongoing ICC World Test Championship cycle though, Virat has been doing well for himself, having made 468 runs in 10 innings at an average of 52.00, with a century and two fifties. His best score is 121. In the recently concluded Bangladesh series, Kohli scored just 99 runs in four innings, with best score of 47.

Speaking ahead of the game in a pre-match presser, Gambhir called Virat a "world-class cricketer".

"Virat has always been a world-class cricketer. He has performed for such a long period of time and he is as hungry as when he made his debut. I remember opening the batting with him when he made his debut in Sri Lanka. To now, his hunger is always there," said Gambhir.

"And that is what makes him a world class cricketer and I am sure that he will be hungry to get runs in this series and probably moving forward to Australia as well. And we know that once he gets into those runs scoring how consistent can he be," he added.

India's squad for the three Tests against New Zealand: Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep.

–ANI

Indian Captain Rohit Sharma with coach Gautam Gambhir and Rishabh Pant inspects the pitch during a training session ahead of the first cricket test match between India and New Zealand at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday; Virat Kohli (C) bats in the nets during a practice session

Traffic arrangements near Chinnaswamy Stadium

As the highly anticipated Test match between India and New Zealand approaches, scheduled from October 16 to 20 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, the city's traffic police have announced comprehensive arrangements to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

To facilitate this, parking restrictions will be enforced from 7 am to 6 pm on key roads surrounding the stadium. Areas designated as no-parking zones include Queens Road, MG Road, Central Street, Cubbon Road, St. Marks Road, and Lavelle Road, among others.

For those attending the match, designated parking areas are available at UB City Parking Lot, BMTC TTMC Shivajinagar (1st Floor), and inside Cubbon Park on Kings Road. Additionally, designated pick-up and drop-off zones for taxis and auto-rickshaws will be located on Cubbon Road between BRV Junction and CTO Circle.

Authorities request the public's cooperation to adhere to these arrangements, ensuring a hassle-free experience for cricket fans.

Court rejects bail pleas of Darshan, Pavithra

The 57th City Civil and Sessions Court on Monday denied bail to Pavithra Gowda and popular film actor Darshan, the prime accused in the high-profile Renukaswamy murder case.

During the hearing, the defence argued that Darshan had no direct involvement in the crime and was not present at the scene when the murder occurred. However, the prosecution opposed the bail plea, presenting substantial evidence, including technical data and eyewitness testimonies, that allegedly linked Darshan to the crime. Notably, the police had seized footwear belonging to Darshan that bore bloodstains, which matched with those of the deceased, Renukaswamy.

In light of the prosecution's arguments, the court decided to reject the bail applications for both accused. Following the court's decision, the family of Renukaswamy expressed relief and welcomed the ruling, emphasising their hope for a speedy trial.

Meanwhile, Darshan's legal team has announced their intention to appeal to the High Court on the grounds of health concerns for the actor, as they continue to seek bail.

The ase involves the murder of a 33-year-old resident of Chitradurga, whose remains were discovered in Kamakshipalya on June 9. –BMB

Forest officer targeted: FIR against 4

An FIR has been filed against four individuals, including retired Range Forest Officer HK Mariswamy, for allegedly threatening the dignity of a female Assistant Conservator of Forests H Seema. This scheme involved forging her signature on a false letter that falsely accused senior officials, threatening not only Seema's reputation but also the integrity of the department.

In her complaint, Seema, who is currently working in the research department, stated that Mariswamy and the other accused CR Shivamshankar, Vinod, and HL Pradeep Kumar had concocted a malicious plan to discredit her and harm her reputation. The forged letter was reportedly sent to Prabhas Chandra, the General Secretary of the Forest Department, on September 19.

Seema became aware of the situation when she visited senior officials to discuss departmental issues. Upon reviewing the letter, she discovered that it contained her forged signature and addressed false accusations against high-ranking officials, including the Deputy Principal Chief Conservator. An investigation is underway. –BMB

Complaint against CM Siddaramaiah over Arkavati Layout allegations

Landowners from the Arkavati Layout have lodged a formal complaint against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner, and several BDA officials. The complaint, filed by Sivalingappa, Venkatakrishnappa, and Ramachandraiah Rajasekhar, alleges misuse of power and systemic land grabbing that has left rightful beneficiaries suffering.

The Arkavati layout, encompassing areas like Thanisandra, Sampigehalli, Jakkuru, K. Narayanapura, and 16 other villages, spans approximately 800 acres. The BDA initiated the construction in 2004, inviting over one lakh applications for plots.

Of these, only 20,000 individuals were considered beneficiaries, with 12,000 receiving register-cum-sale deeds. However, since the layout's inception, numerous landowners claim their plots have fallen into the hands of land grabbers.

In 2006, the BDA allotted plots for ₹2.5 lakh for 30x40 sites and ₹4.5 lakh for 40x60 sites. A crucial condition of these allotments restricted landlords from selling their plots for ten years. In 2014, during CM Siddaramaiah's first term, the allotment was controversially withdrawn, leaving many landowners, who have consistently paid land taxes since 2006, in limbo.

The complaint highlights that despite the BDA developing the layout by seizing farmers' lands, these lands have not been returned, leading to widespread frustration among legitimate beneficiaries who are now facing eviction by illegal encroachers. The plotters are demanding immediate action to reclaim their rightful properties and end the alleged illegality surrounding the Arkavati layout. **BMB**

Obstacles on our path to equal accessibility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KAUSHIK JN

significant challenges. If you're on the road, it's nearly impossible to safely access the footpath, and if you're already on the footpath, getting off can be equally difficult.

The absence of properly designed kerb ramps is a major concern, those that are built often have slopes too steep to be practical," a wheelchair user told BM. According to them, in some areas, kerb ramps are missing altogether, leaving the wheelchair user stranded on the road without a way to reach the sidewalk.

Bollards installed to prevent two-wheelers on newly constructed footpaths have become a barrier for wheelchair users.

In areas like Indiranagar and Margosa Road in Malleshwaram, while the footpaths may seem well-designed at first glance, they fall short on accessibility.

Margosa Road, one of the few places with kerb ramps, still doesn't meet the necessary standards. Despite claims of improved walkability, these upgrades overlook the needs of people with disabilities. In Indiranagar, the lack of proper kerb ramps and accessibility features like tactile tiles for the visually impaired further compounds the problem, with bollards becoming yet another obstacle for wheelchair users.

"Our current road infrastructure often neglects the needs of all users. Even when ramps are provided, bollards installed to block two-wheelers become barriers for wheelchair users.

Missing ramps, high footpaths, and various obstructions like poles and street vendors make it difficult for even able-bodied individuals to walk without effort or exhaustion, limiting how far one can walk freely and comfortably," said Ashish Verma, Professor of Transportation System Engineering, at Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Verma is now assisting the BBMP to design roads with such needs in mind.

BBMP Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath told BM that the civic agency was focusing on designs as the first step. "We are working on rectifying it with the agencies involved. They have already made improvements in hospitals and other areas, and they are collaborating to educate everyone involved.

The design is being developed by World Resources Institute (WRI) in collaboration with IISc professor Ashish Verma. This design will outline key factors such as ramp size and slope, and we will proceed accordingly," he said.

Verma said the discussions of redesigning are still in the planning phase. "What we need is a holistic and universal approach that caters to all road users—men, women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

The design must consider everyone. However, it's not just a design issue; there's also a lack of enforcement, particularly traffic law enforcement. We're using innovative technologies like AI cameras for traffic, so why not apply the same to footpaths?

Developing AI to detect two-wheelers on footpaths and issuing penalties could be far more effective than installing bollards, which end up being a barrier for wheelchair users," he said.

However, he admitted that all these issues can be addressed only when there is an intent to accommodate all kinds of road users and ensure their safe movement. "Unfortunately, this is often overlooked. If we take a comprehensive approach to road design, working together with BBMP to follow proper guidelines and templates, we can create an environment where roads are equitably accessible and safe for everyone, regardless of their ability," he said.

BBMP chief engineer (road and infrastructure) BS Prahalad said that in simple terms, footpaths should have ramps wherever they meet the road.

"Currently, we often build footpaths with 8-inch or 5-inch kerb stones. We've decided to install ramps at all such points. Secondly, the footpaths must be levelled, without missing stones or uneven surfaces.

Roads must not just be free of potholes but truly walkable. We also need to address encroachments to make them more user-friendly. Another major issue is the damage caused by street food vendors.

Waste from the stalls attracts rats that dig holes, further spoiling the footpaths. We have installed bollards to prevent two-wheelers from entering these areas. Though ramps are constructed for wheelchair users, the reality in Bengaluru is that many continue to ride and park two-wheelers on footpaths despite knowing the rules," Prahalad said.

Civic sense needed

Citizens said that more than new footpath projects, we need a reevaluation of how these spaces are designed. Stricter enforcement of accessibility laws, proper infrastructure planning, and above all, civic sense among citizens are crucial to making the city truly inclusive.

"People themselves are part of the problem. Two-wheelers often encroach on footpaths, without realising the damage they're doing to pedestrians, especially those who are physically challenged," noted one citizen.

Prahalad said that even if the BBMP takes action, the behaviour of citizens becomes a problem. "For instance, even after cleaning up a spot where garbage was illegally dumped, the same people return to dump waste again the next day, despite having the option to dispose it of when trucks come by.

This same behaviour is evident with footpaths, which are damaged by two-wheelers riding over them. We've considered wheelchair dimensions, leaving a 40 cm gap, but ensuring it's not too wide, as that could also allow cycles to enter," he said.

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I, Kiran Gopinath Pillai, S/o Sreelatha Pillai, Age 33 years, R/at D104, Aryan Opulence, Uttarahalli Main Rd, Opp Mandovi Service Centre, Kengeri P.O 560060 do hereby declare that KIRAN GOPINATH PILLAI and KIRAN PILLAI pertains to one and the same person and it refers to me only. In future my name should be considered as KIRAN GOPINATH PILLAI only, vide affidavit dated 05-09-2024, sworn before advocate and notary S R Thulasikrishna at Bangalore.

I, Talath Shakoor W/o Abdul Shukoor R/o #1311 Shivraj Road Dr. ambedkar Nagar B'lore-560045 have changed my name to Talath Shukoor for all purposes

I Manish Kumar Bindeshwar Prasad Singh , R/o #421, Vandana Spring Woods Apt, Sompura Gate, Sarjapur road, Bangalore-562125, have changed my name to Manish Kumar.

I, Radha Krishnaiah Paduchuri R/o Flat. 21, 1st floor, HMS residency, 7th cross, Ksrtc layout, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Radha Krishna Paduchuri Affidavit Dt.14/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Rekha Suresh Kumar W/o Makani Chandra Suresh Kumar R/o No.646, Nandana Residency layout, Kempapura Dasarahalli, Bengaluru 560024 have changed my name to Rekha Cona Venkatram affidavit Dt.14/10/2024 notary Harisha.G, B'luru

I Hemalatha D/O, Mohan A R/o #258, 1st Block Jnanabharathi Layout, Valagerahalli, Kengeri, Bangalore 560059 have changed my name to Hemalatha M.

I, Vinitha Dinesh Kumar Nahar W/o Abhishek baldota R/o No-626, ranka park apartments, Lalbagh main Road, Bangalore 560027 have changed my name to Vinitha Abhishek Baldota for all purposes.

I Rahul Laxman Acharya S/O, Laxman Acharya R/o 1207 Shravanthi Palladium, Adarsh Layout, Lingadheeranahalli, 100ft Road, Bengaluru - 560109 have changed my name to Rahul Laxman .

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BANGKOK PATTAYA 5 DAYS Nov: 6 Dec: 3
DUBAI 5 DAYS Oct: 18 Nov: 17 Dec: 10
CHINA (BEIJING & SHANGHAI) 7 DAYS Nov: 6
SRI LANKA 7 DAYS Nov: 24 Dec: 10
NEPAL WITH MUKTINATH 8 DAYS Nov: 12
VIETNAM CAMBODIA 10 DAYS Nov: 15 Dec: 10
HONG KONG MACAU 6 DAYS Nov: 17
BHUTAN 8 DAYS Nov: 21

Lantana, Senna wreak havoc in forest landscape

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

depending on soil moisture conditions. "Once the invasive plants are uprooted, we will implement an assisted natural regeneration process to establish a native canopy by eradicating invasive species such as Lantana camara around naturally regenerating saplings. We will also train local communities in the state, primarily tribal groups, to replicate the success models of eco-restoration from our work at Tholpetty, Wayanad," said Chandran.

All financial costs of eco-restoration, management of local communities, and supervision of the fieldwork will be borne by Forest First Samithi. The NGO will also raise CSR funds/ foundation grants to support forest land restoration in critical animal habitats of Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.

Notably, Chandran's NGO has managed invasive plant species in the Tholpetty Range of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary over the last four years.

According to Chandran, around 24,000 naturally regenerating tree saplings were freed from lantana growth under the project and 400 acres were restored.

"Complete uprooting of Senna Spectabilis has already enabled habitat restoration and establishment of biodiversity by returning 122 species of birds and 50 species of butterflies in the completely uprooted plots. Removal of invasive species also helped in conserving 80 native tree species of the Western Ghats, many of them are keystone, pioneer, wild edible fruits, and riverine," added Chandran.

HEALTH TIP: Avocados are rich in many micronutrients, including potassium and vitamins K, C, B5 (pantothenic acid), and B6 (pyridoxine)

Bananas are rich in potassium, which aids in muscle function and weight gain

ONE WITH NATURE

Humanity's future depends on our ability to live in harmony with nature

The world is facing multiple — potentially catastrophic — crises, including inequality, poverty, food insecurity, climate change and biodiversity loss. These issues are interconnected and require systemic solutions, as changes in one system affects others.

However, human systems have largely failed to acknowledge their connection to ecological systems. Most modern societies have dominating and exploitative relationships with nature, which are underpinned by imperialist and dualistic thinking that divides living beings into racial, gender, class or species hierarchies.

Our current mindset, with its focus on competition, growth and profit, has been a key contributor to social and ecological crises. Even more alarming is that this mindset has depleted nature to the point that it may soon fail to sustain human and non-human lives entirely.

Sustainable and equitable well-being

Policies for future survival and prosperity must address the interconnected crises affecting the world today. These challenges are pushing social and economic systems beyond their sustainable limits.

While current sustainability efforts, such as those outlined in Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity — a collaboration between scientists and economists from around the world — and the United Nations' Pact for the Future offer pathways for action, they often fall short. These initiatives, though well-intentioned, remain rooted in a business-as-usual approach.

This isn't enough. What's needed is a transformative shift in how we interact with the natural world. A reciprocal relationship between humans and nature, where humans give back to the environment as much as we take, is essential. Sustainable and equitable well-being must be placed at the centre of human societies.

Central to this transformation is the need to ensure good lives for all while staying within the Earth's planetary boundaries. These boundaries are the limits within which humanity can safely operate without causing irreversible environmental harm. This will require a new economic mindset that enables people to live with nature, instead of destroying it.

Change is daunting, but possible

Though the scale of change needed may seem daunting, it's achievable and already in motion in some places. In many communities around the world, like Puget Sound on the northwestern coast of Washington state, people are already living in ways that allow humans and ecosystems to flourish.

In other regions, like Ecuador and Sumas First Nation, new possibilities are emerging for building human societies that operate within the planetary boundaries. Humans are exceptionally adaptable and have the advantage of foresight and the ability to transform entire systems through ethical collaboration.

Individual action is one necessary element to accelerate this shift. Change often starts small, with individuals and small groups adjusting their lives. But while personal choices do matter, individuals must also push for systemic changes in their communities, organizations, and broader society.

To make nature-connected living more widely accessible, collaborative, equitable and intentional efforts are needed. This involves intercultural communication, collaboration and open dialogue to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in decision-making processes.

Thoughtfully considering the direct and indirect impacts of our action, including the immediate and long-term consequences of any decisions, will create more equitable and sustainable systems.

People looking to create meaningful change should seek to support a range of groups and organizations dedicated to environmental and social justice. This includes Indigenous leaders and treaty protocols, local authorities, environmental advocacy groups, community organizations or labour unions. A good example of this is the work being done by the UNESCO-recognized biosphere reserves.

Alternative ways of knowing

The problems facing the world today are vast and multifaceted, and need to be addressed in multiple ways. Both formal knowledge, like scientific research, and informal knowledge, through the Two-Eyed Seeing principle have roles to play in fostering more equitable nature-human relationships.

Although western scientific knowledge is often centred in evidence based discussion, many valuable solutions stem from alternative ways of knowing, such as Indigenous ecological knowledge. By welcoming and supporting diverse knowledge holders in creating solutions, we can expand the range of approaches, successes and failures from which humanity can learn.

Creativity — the essence of adaptability — flourishes when different knowledge systems are woven together. However, this must be done ethically and involve consensual and collaborative exchanges to ensure no knowledge system is exploited or undervalued. We must be careful to avoid repeating the mistakes of imperialism and domination that have created our current planetary crises.

In addition to rethinking how we approach knowledge, rebuilding strong, interconnected relationships between humans and nature also means rethinking our technological systems.

Technological innovation has been used to exploit the Earth for short-term gains, but it also holds great potential for positive change. It can either maintain or disrupt the status quo, depending on how we use it.

To build healthier relationships between people and nature, human societies need to adopt a systems thinking approach. This approach looks at the bigger picture, considering the ecological, cultural, political and social aspects of technology in an integrated manner. It ensures that innovation is guided by principles of sustainability and equity.

What the future holds

The future will bring massive changes to Earth's natural environments, accompanied by shocks to political economic and social systems. The survival of human and non-human beings depends on our ability to plan for these challenges.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and resource depletion are not isolated problems — they are part of an interconnected web of crises that demand urgent and comprehensive action.

Incremental approaches are not enough to address the scale of these looming threats. Purposefully co-ordinated actions are needed to shift the current trajectory away from exploitation to one of mutual benefit for humans and the natural world.

What is needed is radical transformation aimed at creating just and flourishing relationships between nature and humanity for the benefit of all current and future life on Earth.

(By Liette Vasseur, Brock University; Anders Hayden, Dalhousie University and Mike Jones, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

5 Daily Habits For A Happier You

1. Start Your Day With Mindful Moments
Instead of reaching for your phone right after waking up, try spending the first 10 minutes focusing on yourself. Simple breathing exercises, meditation, or stretching can help clear your mind and reduce stress before the day's chaos begins. By cultivating a sense of calm in the morning, you'll carry that tranquillity with you throughout the day.

2. Get Moving
Exercise isn't just for your body; it's a proven mood booster for your mind too. Whether it's a brisk walk, a yoga session, or dancing around your living room, moving your body releases endorphins – the brain's feel-good chemicals. Even just 20-30 minutes of movement each day can help reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety.

3. Nourish Your Body, Nourish Your Mind
What you eat has a direct impact on how you feel. Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats have been linked to better mental health outcomes. Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish, walnuts, and flaxseeds are known to be particularly beneficial for brain health.

4. Stay Connected with Loved Ones
Studies show that positive social interactions help increase oxytocin, a hormone that reduces stress and promotes feelings of happiness and safety. Whether it's a quick call with a friend, sharing a meal with family, or sending a heartfelt message to someone you care about, taking time to connect with others can reduce feelings of loneliness and lift your spirits.

5. Unplug and Recharge
In today's digital age, it's easy to become overwhelmed by constant notifications, social media comparisons, and the pressure to stay connected. Make it a habit to take breaks from your devices, especially in the evenings. Give yourself permission to unplug, read a book, take a bath, or engage in any offline activity that brings you peace.

—Femina

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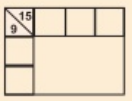
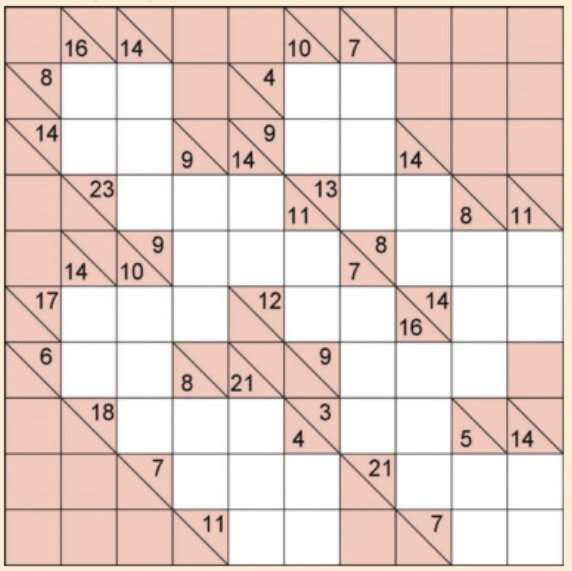
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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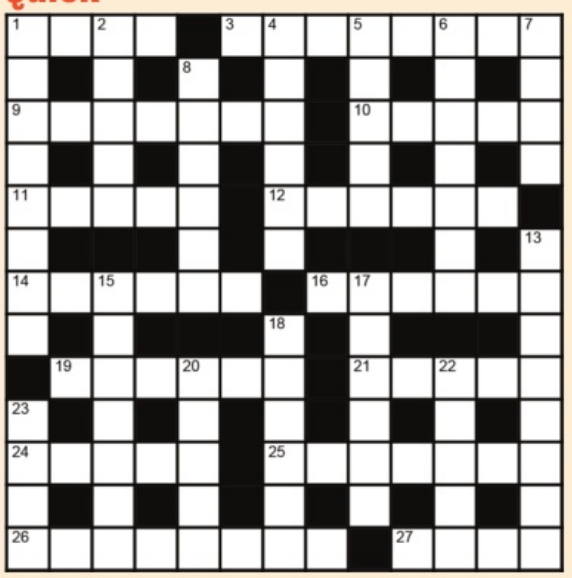


ACROSS

1 Keen on (4)
3 A green vegetable (8)
9 Expert–"had band" anagram ? (3-4)
10 Standards (5)
11 Guru in our country (5)
12 Stir to action (6)
14 Eraser (6)
16 Sausage in a roll (3,3)
19 Defer (6)
21 Of equal value ? (2,3)
24 Improvise (2-3)
25 Cornmeal mush (7)
26 Scorns or scoffs at (8)
27 Greek cheese (4)

DOWN

1 Diligence (8)
2 Leg bone (5)
4 Got oneself free from (6)
5 Funnel-shaped (5)
6 Unit of magnetic intensity (7)
7 ___ facto : by that very fact ? (4)
8 Gorge (6)
13 Capital of Tripura (8)
15 Tourist destination home to the Ranganatha Swamy Temple (1,1,5)
17 By word of mouth (6)
18 Imprison (4,2)
20 Tripoli is its capital (5)
22 Pasta variety (5)
23 ___ a call: visited ? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS G

RCMASRP ADF DR TPVSBX VCCE MC TF MADR XBDFCR, UABR SM SF RCM CR CTX FSKB.

Linemaro

Your smile makes everyone realise the world is a beautiful place

Mindchow

If you want to feel rich, count all the things you have that money can't buy

Joke of the day

Employee of the month is a good example of how somebody can be both a winner and a loser at the same time

Loop

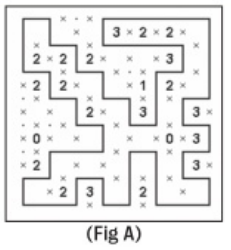
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

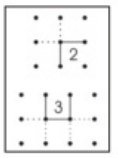
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

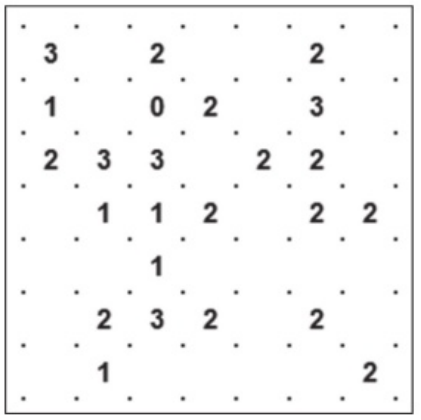
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



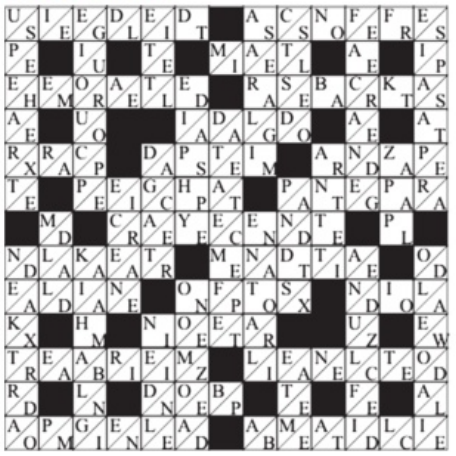
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3 C	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Arcas; 6 Or duo; 7 Rails; 8 I peon; 9 Ty gas

DOWN

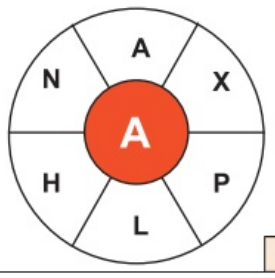
1 Sol so; 2 PTA ad; 3 Cairo; 4 Unrig; 5 Sayer

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

MUSTARD

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6			8		2		
			9	1			8	3
					7		9	
9		8	4	6	3			5
3			5	9	8	7		4
	8		1					
6	1			7	9			
		2		4			1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

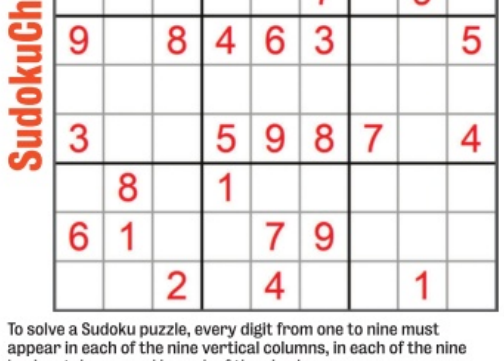
Easy = 6: 1 2 2 7

Medium = 9: 1 2 2 5

Hard = 1: 1 8 8 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



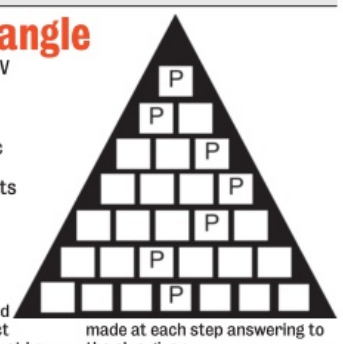
Differences: 1. Fence is not as wide. 2. Glove is missing. 3. Sleeve is wider. 4. Crack in window is different. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Bush is added.

Riddler

I'm a word that can be a verb, adjective or noun. As a verb I happen in the sky. As an adjective, I'm used for clothes you want to buy. As a noun, I'm a little guy. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number XV
2 Dad
3 Knock
4 Harvest
5 Cover with fabric
6 Nattily attired
7 Prepared presents



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

COOKING GROUP CHAT!!!
DON'T FORGET TO WASH UR DISHES. CLEANING TEST TOMORROW!
CHRIS
BLEH.
MOM, CAN I LOAD THE DISHWASHER TONIGHT?
SURE! BUT DON'T YOU HAVE HOMEWORK?
THIS IS MY HOMEWORK.

Crankshaft

I HEARD WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT ALL OF THE GIZMOS THAT NEW THEATERS HAVE ON THEIR ARMRESTS...
AND I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW...
ORSON WELLES
CITIZEN KANE
THAT I COME HERE BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THOSE THINGS!
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you might feel rushed, so be cautious while driving. However, with the blessings of elders, you'll manage to navigate through any messy situations. Patience will be essential as you handle multiple tasks, leading to success. New partnerships could bring positive results, and love birds will enjoy joyful moments. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The blessings of elders will boost your confidence today. Trust your intuition while making decisions at work, as it may lead to financial gains. A family trip to a religious place is likely. Be mindful of your arrogance to maintain harmony in domestic life. Students might achieve good results, with a touch of destiny's favour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you might experience sudden gains in business, boosting both your confidence and bank balance. Avoid stress in your personal life to maintain balance. There will be movement in your work or business, enhancing your prestige. An overseas trip might be on the cards.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may not be favourable, as you might feel dull or unhappy. Unexplained fears could disturb your peace, and you may be drawn to the occult. A lack of confidence might affect your work, so avoid risky adventures or rushed driving.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you'll find a balance between earnings and expenses, which will boost your savings. You're likely to perform well at your job, and your boss may assign new responsibilities, possibly leading to a promotion. Stuck funds may be recovered, and you'll successfully manage opponents or hidden rivals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and love is in the air. Singles may find a suitable match, and your professional life will see improvement. Friends and subordinates are likely to support you, enhancing both personal and professional areas of life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel sluggish today due to lack of sleep, which could scatter your focus and affect work efficiency. A visit to a religious place could bring solace. By the evening, the blessings of elders may guide you to rectify your mistakes and plan for the days ahead. Take care of your parents' health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today your subordinates will be cooperative, helping you complete pending projects. You may attend a social event, boosting your network and supporting both work and social life. Outings with friends are likely, and any disputes with them may be settled. Students should avoid carelessness.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your communication skills will shine at work today, and being polite to everyone will help you speed up projects. Love birds may share their feelings, strengthening their relationship foundation.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships will bring benefits, and your energy levels will be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm will pay off with financial gains. Your self-respect will protect you from negative influences.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel dull and unhappy. Avoid harsh conversations with friends and family members. Your efforts might not yield the expected results, so trust your intuition and be patient when making important decisions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
New income opportunities may arise today. Past investments are likely to bring good profits, boosting your bank balance. You may connect with a social organisation, expanding your network. Singles may find a soul mate, and love birds will enjoy happy moments together.

Aakash Jiji Jacob, 11 years, Antony Claret School

Mihika Hardikar, 9 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√16 + √4×4 = 4 + 2×4 = 4 + 8 = 12

BULL'S EYE
alpha, anal, PHALANX, plan

STRIKE OUT

S	E	E	D	E	D	■	S	C
H	E	R	A	L	D	■	R	E
E	O	■	I	A	G	O	■	A
R	A	P	■	A	S	T	I	■
■	M	■	N	O	T	A	■	U
E	L	A	N	■	O	P	T	S
D	A	K	A	R	■	M	A	T

QUICK

I	N	T	O	■	B	R	O	C
N	■	I	■	R	I	■	O	■
■	S	W	A	M	I	■	E	X
U	■	I	■	V	■	D	■	I
D	A	B	H	A	N	D	■	N
S	H	E	L	V	E	■	A	T
R	U	B	B	E	R	■	H	O

FAST FIVE

S	A	C	R	A
O	D	O	U	R
L	A	R	I	S
O	P	I	N	E
S	T	A	G	Y

RIDDLER
Fly

QUOTE UNCODE
Nothing has an uglier look to us than reason, when it is not on our side.
cut-the-mustard

MENSA PUZZLE

1	6	9	3	8	4	2	5	7
2	5	7	9	1	6	4	8	3
8	3	4	2	5	7	6	9	1
9	7	8	4	6	3	1	2	5
5	4	6	7	2	1	8	3	9
3	2	1	5	9	8	7	6	4
4	8	5	1	3	2	9	7	6

SUDOKU

7	9	2	6	4	5	3	1	8
6	1	3	8	7	9	5	4	2
4	8	5	1	3	2	9	7	6
3	2	1	5	9	8	7	6	4
5	4	6	7	2	1	8	3	9
9	7	8	4	6	3	1	2	5
8	3	4	2	5	7	6	9	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
p, pa, Rap, Reap, Drape, Dapper, Wrapped.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 2 − 2 − 1 = 6
Medium
2 × 5 + 1 − 2 = 9
Hard
2 − 8 + 8 − 1 = 1

LOOP

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Psychedelic thriller

MC Chenna Keshava, who has a Bachelor's degree in Visual Media and Film-Making, debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with the film Anshu, a psychedelic thriller. The movie went on floors in October 2023 and is set to arrive in theaters next month. Nisha Ravikrishnan, who became popular with her performance in tele serial Gattimela, plays the lead in this movie that will delve into social problems.

"It is my maiden movie as a director. Prior to this, I worked as an associate for the movie Sees Kaddi that was screened at various film

festivals. The movie was bankrolled by Grahana LLP banner. I approached the Grahana banner with the script of Anshu. After going through it, they gave me a green signal. It was shot at Bengaluru and Mangaluru. The movie is about restrictions on women and how they take bold decisions to overcome such hurdles," said Keshava. The movie features Chaluvaraj, who was appreciated for his role in Bajarangi 2, and Vedha, Ratan Gangadhar, Sampath Shivashankar, Kirthi Nanaiah.

The movie's poster was released last year and its trailer was released recently. The tagline of the trailer – What we believe is not true and what we cannot cope with is not false – has received good feedback. Sunil Narasimha Murthy, who worked as a cinematographer for Garuda Purana, is the cinematographer. "We have released two songs of the movie recently and they have become popular," the director said.

Strong story

RJ Pradeep's Sakkath Studio, known for making web series like Loose Connection and others, debuts in film production with the film Maryade Prashne. The movie is helmed by Nagaraja Somayaji. An event was organised at Hyde Park to announce the release date of the movie. The movie is scheduled for release on November 22.

"Sakkath Studio is our dream project. Our intention is to bankroll a good story-oriented movie. I discussed it with director Nagaraja Somayaji. Both of us decided to make this movie. Now, we want to tell movie goers that our movie is set to arrive in theaters on November 22," said Pradeep. He said Maryade Prashne has all elements to entertain all types of audiences, especially families. "The story is very good and

unique," he said.

Calling Pradeep his close friend, Somayaji said that movie goers would like this movie because of its story. "Our technical team is strong. We have decided to release the movie not only in Karnataka but also neighbouring states where Kannadigas live," the director said. The movie features Rakesh Adiga, Sunil Raoh, Shine Shetty, Teju Belawadi, Poornachandra Mysuru, Prabhu Mundukur and others.

Andrew Garfield, Kate Tomas break up

Andrew Garfield and Kate Tomas have broken up after dating for several months.

Tomas revealed the news on Saturday, in the comments of an Instagram post. Responding to a fan who asked if she was still dating the 'We Live in Time' actor, Tomas confirmed that their relationship had ended some time ago. "We broke up months ago but I'm sure he will be happy to know that he is loved," Tomas replied, putting an end to the fan's question.

The pair were first linked in March of this year when they were spotted holding hands during what looked like a double date with Phoebe Bridgers and Bo Burnham. Despite the public sighting, Garfield, 41, has remained private about his love life. In a 2021 interview with Bustle, Garfield shared that he intentionally keeps his romantic relationships out of the public eye, valuing privacy. Before dating Tomas, Garfield was romantically linked to his Spider-Man co-star Emma Stone in the 2010s. More recently, he dated model Alyssa Miller, but the relationship ended in April 2022. **—ANI**

Shed a tear

Ananya Panday reveals she enjoys a good cry

Bollywood's young talent Ananya Panday is currently enjoying the success of the thriller film 'CTRL' and recently she made an interesting revelation that she loves crying as it makes her look attractive.

Talking in a podcast with Netflix India, the 'CTRL' actress admitted that she loves crying and she also revealed that she gets some of the perfect snaps when she sheds a tear.

Further, the actress said that she posted crying pictures on her Instagram handle because she looked 'Really good' when she cried as her teary eyes gave her a natural glow and a glass-eye effect. Also, she said, "I love crying."

Ananya Panday shared that whenever she cries she looks at the mirror and thinks 'It's not bad' and continues crying. Earlier also the actress has made such interesting revelations as she divulged that she finds it tough to express her emotions as she breaks into tears immediately once she turns emotional. During such situations, she ideally steps aside and takes a break from whatever she is doing even though she is not fond of doing that. Ananya Panday also said earlier in an interview with We Are Yuvaa that whenever she takes a breather during emotional situations, she ends up feeling good.

On the work front, Ananya Panday is receiving much praise for her thriller film 'CTRL' which is streaming on OTT. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane and also starring Vihaan Samat in the lead, 'CTRL' is a screen life thriller that revolves around the story of influencer couple Nella and Joe. When Joe cheats on Nella, the latter tries to erase her boyfriend with an AI app which creates ruckus.

—ETimes

Long way to go

Kareena will complete 25 years in the movie business next year. Her filmography boasts of an eclectic mix of commercial potboilers, memorable characters and no-nonsense courageous leads. Even in her earlier roles where she seemed a bit extra, only she could have pulled it off with her cheeky charming demeanour and presence. From Refugee (2000) to Crew and Buckingham Murders this year, Bebo has had quite a journey.

"I have constantly tried to prove myself as an actor for the past 25 years. And I don't want people to say that you have done it all, now what? I have a long way to go," she said.

Bebo shared an interesting anecdote. She remembered, "When Omkara was about to release, I thought I gave such a good performance that I kept a special screening and invited directors like Mani Ratnam and of course Vishal Bhardwaj for it. I kept a trial in Film City, Saif was also there. After the movie ended, everyone said you were fabulous but where's Saif! Likewise, during Jab We Met, I was also shooting Tashan simultaneously. My focus was always Tashan but Jab We Met was released, and people loved that film way more than Tashan. So, things can't be planned. Magic just happens. Actors bounce off each other's energies."—ETimes